

THE

GATEWAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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Hockey wins holiday tournament

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO hockey team picked up its second tournament cup of the season Saturday in Troy, N.Y. at the Rensselaer/Bank of America Holiday Hockey Tournament with a 6-1 victory over Holy Cross. The win was the Mavericks' fifth in the last seven games and improved their record to 7-6 overall.

The Mavericks played five games between Nov. 18 and Nov. 26. UNO split a home Central Collegiate Hockey Association series with Alaska-Fairbanks, then lost the battle of the Mavericks to Minnesota State-Mankato before traveling to New York. The Mavs then downed Providence 4-2 in the opening round of the tournament and scorched Holy Cross for the championship.

UNO started the stretch against Alaska-Fairbanks Nov. 18 and 19. The Mavericks outshot the Nanooks 25-21 during the Friday night game and 34-13 on Saturday night, but split the series. The problem was getting the shots past UAF goalie Chad Johnson.

Friday night UAF jumped to a 2-0 lead by the end of the first intermission, but the Mavericks came out hot at the start of the second period. UNO's Mick Lawrence cut the lead in half, scoring on a rebound just 20 seconds into the second period. Scott Parse tied things up for the Mavericks at the 7:56 mark with a wrist shot. Bill Thomas picked up the game winner at the 12:11 mark on a power play backhand. Parse picked up his

See **HOCKEY:** Page 8



photo by Michelle Bishop

Dan Knapp battles Braden Walls of Alaska Fairbanks for the puck during a recent game. The Mavericks split the series against the Nanooks with a 4-2 win and 4-3 loss.

UNO Faculty Senate in support of same-sex benefits

ANGI SADA
NEWS EDITOR

Faculty Senate presidents from the four University of Nebraska campuses have stepped forward to state their support for same-sex benefits to NU James B. Milliken.

According to UNO Faculty Senate President Hollis Glaser, support throughout the senate has been solid.

"We spoke to President Milliken. He knows what the competition is doing," she said, making reference to the fact that several of NU's peer institutions are providing same-sex benefits.

"Approximately 50 percent of each university's peers offer the benefits," she said.

Glaser said that all of the campuses except for Kearney have drafted resolutions in support of adding same-sex benefits to the benefit packages offered to faculty.

And UNO Chancellor Nancy Belck spoke confidently in support of the action. She said that all four chancellors believe that it is essential for university growth.

"It is coming," she said.

Glaser believes the traditionally conservative nature of Nebraska is slowing the process.

Regent Randy Ferlic of Omaha disagrees. He believes there are other issues hindering the passage of same-sex benefits for faculty, primarily funding.

"I don't believe that it is as much [about politics] as it is about finding positions for spouses in the communities. Usually finding a job for a working spouse is a greater

See **SAME-SEX BENEFITS:** Page 2

Campus security prepares for crime during holiday season

CHRIS LARSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Thefts, break-ins, drug and alcohol violations and vandalism continue to be reported on campus, according to Campus Security.

In response to increasing reports, Campus Security is publishing a 'Holiday Safety Tips' in E-notes, UNO What's Up, and the *Gateway*, said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of security and traffic at UNO.

"This is the time of year when things start to disappear from rooms and from the library. Students get lazy," Kosel said.

There are more than 70 cameras on campus, Kosel said. But security officers don't have the ability to watch all the camera screens at once. What they can do is go back through one and zoom in on an area where a crime was committed.

"We will also have additional staff over break when students are gone," Kosel said.

With so many people in a concentrated area, the dorms are an easy target for crimes, Kosel said. There is also a new group of students that come in every year who may be more prone to crime than previous years.

One such burglary was reported to the police: Danielle Holbrook and Laura Darling had their dorm broken into in September, and police were able to find the suspect and return many of the stolen items.

Holbrook and Darling declined to comment on the incident.

At University Village, gates were installed to prevent non-residents from entering the complex. The gates were often out of service and have needed to be repaired several times throughout the semester.

"They should have been working since it was built," said Jim Short, president of

See **SECURITY:** Page 2

UNO to recognize World AIDS Day

AARON CROFT
STAFF WRITER

The Nebraska AIDS Project, the African American Association and UNO Student Health Services will team up on Dec. 5 to provide students with a live speaking engagement with two speakers for World AIDS Day. Events will be at the Milo Bail Student Center.

The decision to hold the event four days after international events was made to ensure better attendance.

"We're doing it on that day because it was set by the African American Association. It pulled together all of the organizers. If we all collaborate and do it on that date we'll get a better turnout," said Marcia Adler, supervisor of Student Health Services.

World AIDS Day takes place on Dec. 1 of every year and was designed to be a day of action, awareness, prevention,

and teaching.

"We are also trying to line up a speaker that will encourage parents of younger children to be better educated about what older students in the same school are doing," Adler said.

Student Health Services offers comprehensive AIDS/HIV testing year round. The office is located in the student center, and students can get tested for HIV Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. AIDS and sexually transmitted disease testing is free because of a grant written by Adler and funded through the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Testing on campus usually requires a one to two-day wait for Chlamydia and gonorrhea test results and one week for AIDS test results. On Dec. 5 Nebraska AIDS Project will offer rapid testing that will provide results in about 20 minutes.

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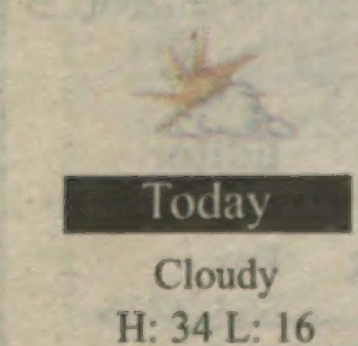
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News You Can Use

COMPILED BY KIMBERLY BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

Wednesday's ABC Breakfast featuring Anderson Cooper cancelled

The 2005-06 Academy, Business and Community Breakfast Speaker Series, featuring CNN's Anderson Cooper set for Wednesday has been cancelled. Cooper's expanded commitments as a CNN anchor caused the current cancellation. Scheduling issues forced two postponements of Cooper during the 2004-05 ABC Series. Organizers of the ABC Series are looking at options to add another speaker during the spring of 2006. The next scheduled ABC speaker is medical journalist Dr. Peter Salgo on March 22, 2006. Tickets purchased for Wednesday's event will be refunded on or about Dec. 5. For more information, call 554-2981.

Tenth annual Kwanzaa celebration Thursday

Kwanzaa, a holiday that celebrates African traditions and American customs, will be observed Thursday at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. This event is free and sponsored by the Student Organizations and Leadership Programs in coordination with Cultural Awareness Programs. It is open to all students, faculty, staff and community. In 1966, the Kwanzaa holiday was created by Maulana Karenga, professor and

chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University. The name "Kwanzaa" comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits." In ancient Africa, the time to harvest fruits and grains was a time of celebration. Space is limited. Individual and table reservations for departments and colleges are available at 554-2711. R.S.V.P.s are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Homestay families sought for ILUNO students

International Studies and Programs is seeking several homestay families for new Saudi students arriving in late December and early January. The government of Saudi Arabia has granted several thousand scholarships for study abroad. As a result, more than 20 students may pursue undergraduate studies at UNO. Students will begin by studying English as a second language in UNO's Intensive English Language Program for their first months. Host families are currently being sought for the length of their visit. Hosting one or two men or women for either a few days or one to six months are also options. A homestay workshop will be offered for interested hosts Thursday Dec. 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at UNO. To volunteer or R.S.V.P. for the Dec. 8 session, contact Lori Arias, Jennifer Stahl or Steve Hoiberg at 554-2293.

Several programs at UNO geared toward international students

SCOTT STEWART
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the holidays approach, it is important to keep in mind that UNO is a diverse campus with students representing different cultures and religions from around the world.

Sasha Fernandez is a junior studying management and accounting, and she is an international visa student from Bombay, India. She discovered UNO through her family.

"Well, I have family who lives in Omaha. My dad's older brother has lived here ever since he was 23 or 24," Fernandez said.

Fernandez is one of many international students on campus.

According to Claude Thompson at the Office of Institutional Research, there are 531 international students enrolled at UNO for the fall semester. This does not include the students enrolled in two special programs offered by the Office of International Studies and Programs.

In total there are 12,122 undergraduate students on campus and 291 of these students are from foreign countries.

International students make up a significantly larger fraction of graduate students, with 240 out of a total 2,764 graduate students holding student visas.

In addition to the traditional university majors, International Studies and Programs offers an Intensive Language Program, where "students spend 21 to 26 hours per week in classes that provide training in conversation, listening, comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary, reading, grammar and writing," according to literature distributed about the program.

The International Professional Development Program is another intensive language program targeted at the business community, offering decision-making and business topics along with English language skills.

"The range of studies is really broad, of course, ranging from two week intensive language to a Ph.D. course of study. They're here for all types of programs," said Steve Hoiberg, an adviser in International Programs. "They represent 103 countries."

In order to study at an American university, international students have to obtain a visa, typically the F-1 visa for academic studies or the J-1 visa for student exchange programs. The process of obtaining a visa can be difficult.

According to Fernandez, it was "very" difficult for her to obtain a visa and she had to apply twice before

receiving it.

"There is a lot. You have to get all your documents together, get an appointment. They ask all kinds of questions and basically see if your parents can afford to pay for you. You have to show them financial documents and everything. They may either reject you or not—really depends on your luck. They can be really rude," Fernandez said.

"There is a whole range of responsibilities, what [visa students] can and cannot do. Students have to maintain a minimum number of credits, and report address changes," Hoiberg said.

Additionally, F-1 visa students are typically prohibited from working off campus and may only work 20 hours per week on campus when classes are in session.

F-1 visa holders may apply for an exception, but doing so requires completing paperwork, detailing "unforeseen economic necessity," submission of a \$175 processing fee, and approval by the government.

Beyond the International Studies and Programs services, several other organizations on campus try to assist international students.

Student Government sponsors the International Student Services agency, which "organizes numerous educational, social and cultural activities, and also helps students adjust to their new environment," according to a brochure it distributes.

Other campus organizations, such as the Muslim Student Association, do not directly deal with international students, but attempt to increase awareness about different cultures and religions, which impacts the campus environment for international students.

"A lot of people don't even want to know anything about other cultures," Fernandez said. "You should try new things, new food, and get to know different cultures, because there is no harm in knowing or trying stuff rather than being clueless about it,"

From **SAME-SEX BENEFITS**: Page 1

challenge," he said.

Ferlic believes the decision to hold same-sex benefits is "very pragmatic."

However, Glaser believes that politics are hampering the acceptance of proposals for same-sex benefits and that many, but not all, of the regents are motivated by worry.

"I think that most of them, or many of them at least, believe that their constituents don't want the university to offer these benefits. I believe that there are a couple of regents who will vote for it.

"The citizens of Nebraska will re-elect them if they say we need to do this in order to stay competitive," she said.

"It is inevitable. It is just the way the world is moving. It is only a matter of when," she

said citing several private sector companies that offer same-sex benefits.

"It's also a matter of who are we going to lose and who is not going to come here because of this [issue]," Glaser said.

Glaser, an openly lesbian member of the communications faculty, said this issue not only affects faculty, but students as well.

"It's good for the students that we stay here. We need to attract good teachers, whatever their orientation," she said.

Glaser said that UNO's Faculty Senate will stay vigilant in obtaining these benefits.

"We're talking to the university-wide benefits committee, finding out what's going on with that. We're pushing all the angles," she said.

From **SECURITY**: Page 1

Century Campus Housing Management. "We finally got it fixed, and had always intended for it to work."

Both Short and Kosel emphasized the need to educate the students on preventative measures before they move into the dorms.

The dorms are a stepping up point to

living in the real world, Short said.

Campus Security has printed brochures, and has officers out talking with people and making themselves more visible on campus so students will report crimes more often, Kosel said.

They want to be visible to students and not a threat, Kosel said.

"We always encourage students to call the police," Kosel said. "We're not CSI; we don't have forensics people here. We don't have the same abilities."

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20 Questions



A little insight into a random UNO student

BECKY BOYER
STAFF WRITER

Name: Alexander Bucevicius
Major: Computer Science
Year: Freshman
Hometown: Omaha

1. How would you describe yourself in one brief sentence?

I guess energetic, yet sleepy.

2. If you could be a superhero, what power would you want the most?

Superspeed; I just like getting things done quickly.

3. What person would you like to meet the most, dead or alive, and what would you ask him/her?

Bill Gates, "Could you give me some money?"

4. Who's the best professor at UNO you've ever had?

I guess it would be Robert Fulkerson.

5. Who's the worst?

My calculus teacher since she doesn't really teach.

6. How do you feel about the parking at UNO?

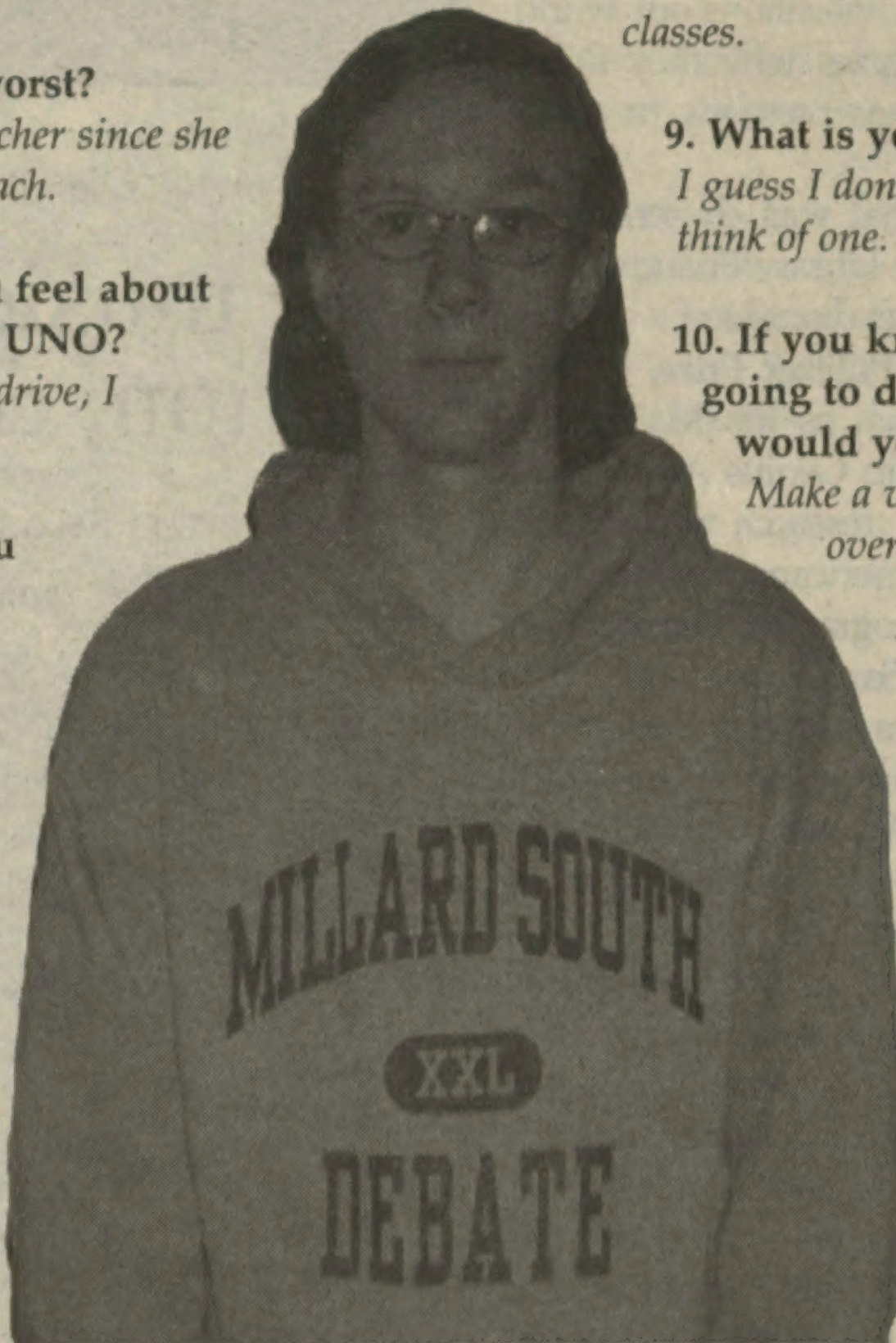
I actually don't drive, I carpool.

7. Why did you choose UNO?

It's close by, relatively inexpensive and some of my friends go here.

8. What do you think your favorite thing about going to school at UNO will be?

Computer



classes.

9. What is your favorite quote?

I guess I don't have one, I can't think of one.

10. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, what would you do today?

Make a vain attempt to take over the world.

11. What's your favorite movie, and why?

The Last Samurai because it goes along a lot with my personal interests.

12. What's the most messed-up thing about the world today?

People in general.

13. What would you do to change

that?

Try to get everyone to treat everyone else as equals.

14. Have you ever taken drugs?

Nope.

15. What's the most horrible thing that's ever happened to you?

Got broadsided by an SUV on my bike.

16. What's the difference between lust and love, to you?

Lust is more carnal and doesn't really have any tangible feelings. Love is the opposite; it's more real.

17. Have you ever really, truly been in love?

Not really.

18. What's the meaning of life?

To live.

19. What is the most difficult thing you've ever done in your life?

A fencing competition last year that I did horribly in.

20. What is one question you've never been asked, but always wish someone would have and how would you answer it?

"Do you want a million dollars?" Answer, "Yeah."

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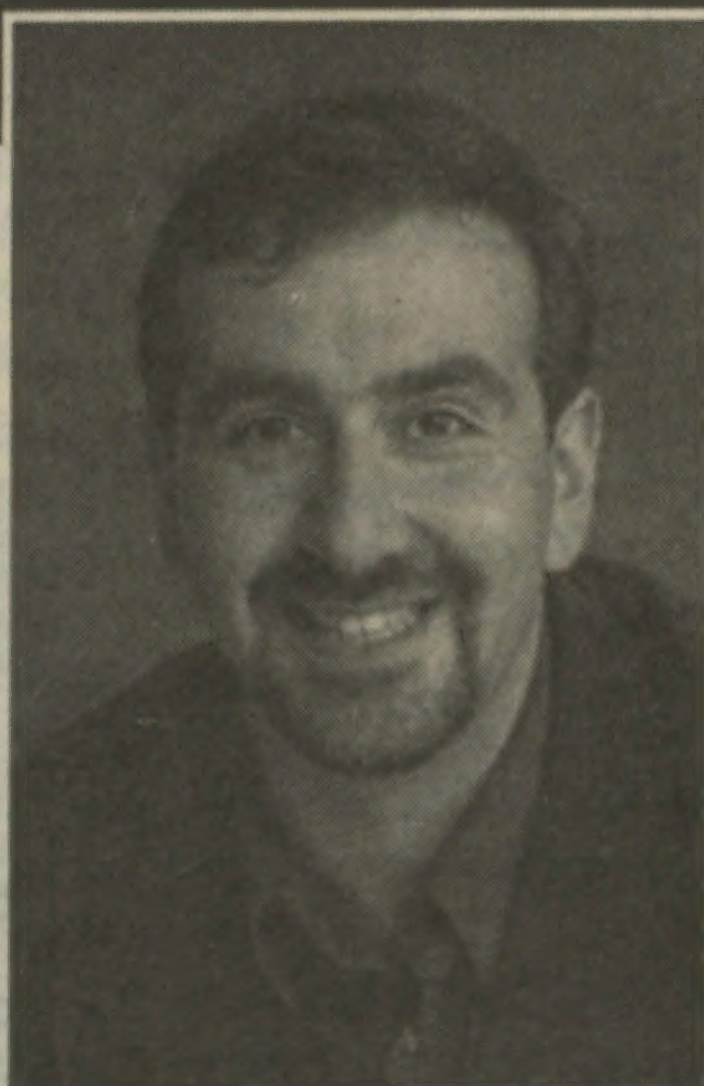
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UNO library to host a panel discussing Pulitzer Prize-winner

ERIKA BERG
STAFF WRITER

When some students heard that a panel will be held at UNO discussing the recent works of Jared Diamond, they might have been thinking, "Who's Jared Diamond? Sounds like a singer or something." Something is right.

After digging a little deeper to find a more about him, this guy sounds more like a modern-day Darwin who's won numerous "genius" awards and written several books.

Jared Diamond, 68, began his pursuit of knowledge at Harvard where he obtained his B.A., then continued on to the University of Cambridge, England where he earned his Ph.D. He returned to America to become a professor at UCLA Medical School.

While in his twenties, he decided he wanted to do more than just teach—he wanted to research nature, civilizations, and the world.

So he packed his bags and traveled to New Guinea—17 times. His ambition was to research the ecology and evolution of New Guinea's birds. After spending a good 30 years on that project, he picked up another teaching position as a professor of geology and environmental health sciences at UCLA, his current position.

During his long career in education and ecology, Diamond started writing books that covered everything from anthropology to linguistics, from genetics to history.

In 1997, he won the Pulitzer Prize for *Guns, Germs and Steel*, a book that explains the advancement of human development and why advanced civilizations were only found in Eurasia.

Diamond's most recent book, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, looks at some of the greatest civilizations our world has known and analyzes why they failed and what we can learn presently to avoid their mistakes.

It is this book that was chosen to be the topic of the UNO Library Friends Book Club's upcoming panel discussion.

Along with the Pulitzer Prize, he has also won awards such as the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Genius Award and received numerous research prizes and grants from the American Physiological Society, National Geographic Society and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Diamond is also a member of the three top national scientific/academic honorary societies: National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences and American Philosophical Society.

So if you're getting tired of your classes and feeling bored or unentertained, how about trying a chance of pace. Take some time out of your hectic week preparing for finals, and sit back, relax, and listen to a panel discussing a real genius—instead of your T.A. The panel discussion is Friday, Dec. 2 at from 10 to 11 a.m. in the southeast corner of the upper level of the UNO Library.



courtesy photo

Ozone, a new club near UNO, offers a trendy environment and a fun place to hang out.

New music club offers convenient location, cool atmosphere

REVIEW BY SALLY BROWN
STAFF WRITER

"I'm very excited about this place," says Matt Whipkey, UNO graduate and Anonymous American lead singer.

Whipkey's band was among the two playing on Thursday, Nov. 17, for the grand opening of the recently rejuvenated Ozone on 72nd and F Streets, adjacent to Anthony's Steakhouse.

Like many of the visitors of the Ozone, Whipkey enjoyed one of the many eclectic drinks listed on the bar's drink menu.

Along with their original martini list, including a fruity "Midwest Mojito" representative of the locale, the bar has inexpensive happy hour specials from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, including margaritas and beer priced from two to three bucks.

Though a neighbor to one of the city's most popular steakhouses, Ozone's food menu is not your typical bar and grill menu. Serving food from egg rolls and shrimp to salads and steak, everyone can find a meal of choice without breaking the bank.

The drink specials and menu of variety are enticing reasons to check out this spot. The club also boasts live music nightly, with no cover charge.

Joe Fucinaro, owner and manager of Ozone, says the bands are mostly local, young music groups, including the likes of Rough Cut, Planet Boom and the John Henry Band.

I was fortunate enough to hear the John Henry Band, who displayed a fun mix of original rock tunes, with a good beat to keep the crowd alive and dancing.

Though they seemed to have trouble with the microphones and the sound was a bit loud for conversation, the music was enjoyable and added to the hip atmosphere of the club.

Upon entering the club, one is immersed in a spacious, fashionable space with rocky walls, red painting and dark lighting. This revamping of the space was finished just four months ago. Fucinaro said the space was due for such a renovation to attract a younger, progressive crowd.

Along with the hip music, the bar has strategically placed televisions on almost every corner for those entertained by sports, news and entertainment, but Fucinaro said the focus is on the music.

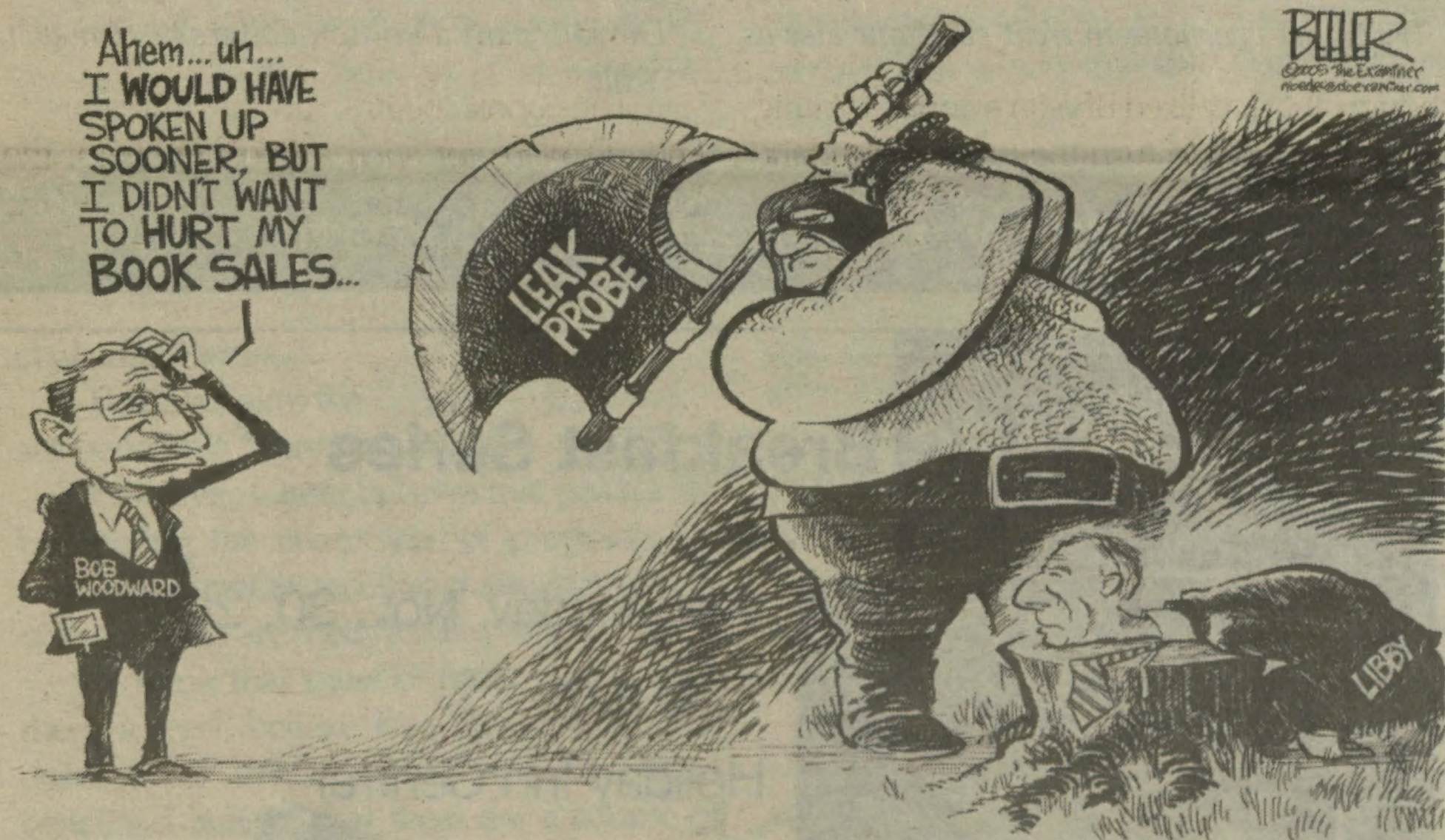
The bar also offers a very convenient location for UNO students, south of the interstate on 72nd.

Overall, the trendy environment was pleasant and unique, the crowd was assorted, the music was entertaining but loud, and the drinks were original, though my particular Midwest Mojito tasted quite sugary for my alcohol-seeking tongue. Table and bar seating is ample, and dancing space and the stage is placed for everyone's view.

The experience was a positive one; the owner was delighted yet frank in speaking with me about the club, and the waitress was more than happy to express her happiness working at the location for more than four years.

Though my friend and I were skeptical upon a wait of five minutes to get our orders taken, I would definitely recommend this spot, if anything, for the cheap beer, sweet music and a new crowd to look at.

Check out band schedules, the menu and drinks at www.ozoneclubomaha.com. Cheers!



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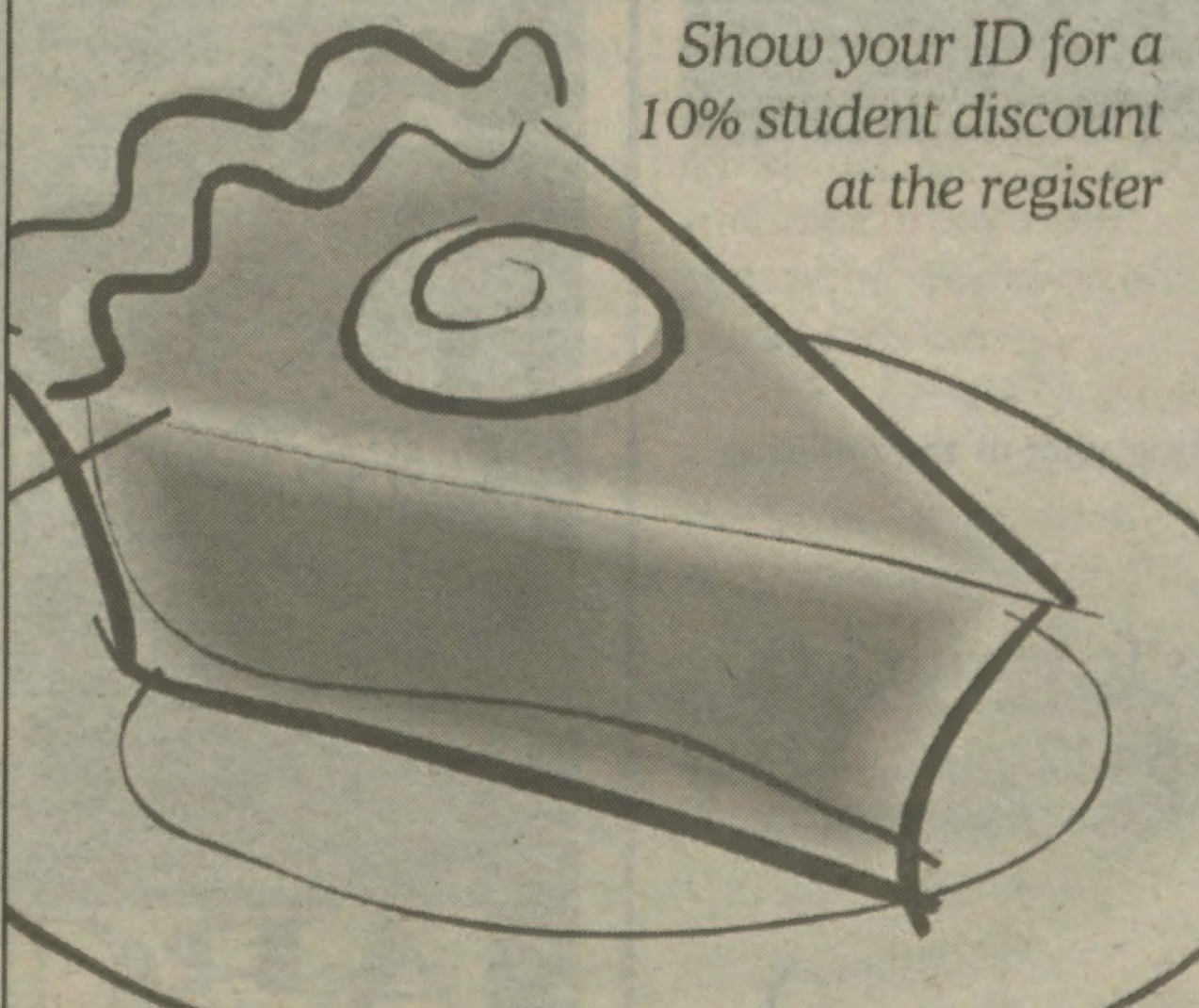
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photo by Tim Fitzgerald
Actors (from left to right) Wai Yim, Kasey R. Brandt, Angela D. Horchem, and Ken Porter star in the UNO theater department's new play, *Mother Courage and Her Children*.

Actors bravely tackle tough characters in *Mother Courage*

COLLEEN O'DOHERTY
STAFF WRITER

The horrors of war and bonds of family are the focus of the UNO theater department's current main stage show, *Mother Courage and Her Children*. The show follows Mother Courage as she and her children try to run a business from their cart and travel about Europe during the Thirty Years War of the 1600s.

The play, by Bertolt Brecht, is a searing commentary on war and its consequences. Brecht's writing manages to make a war that happened more than 300 years ago more than applicable today, showing us that while the setting and the players change, the game stays the same.

A very strong cast brings out the beautiful nuances of Brecht's complex and very human characters brilliantly. Kasey R. Brandt takes a superb turn as Mother Courage. Brandt manages to bring us on Courage's horrendous emotional journey of survival and loss as she tries to keep her business and children safe.

The travesty of war is brought home by the awful fates of Courage's two innocent children, Swiss Cheese and Katrin. Angela D. Horchem does a

beautiful job of portraying the trod-upon and heartbreaking Katrin, Courage's mute child. The character is one that could have easily been too over the top, seeing as the entire show she must "speak" with large body and facial expressions. Yet, Horchem nails the part; she's completely believable and is easily one of the most sympathetic characters in the show.

Equally engaging is Wai Yim as the adorably simple and honest son of Courage, Swiss Cheese. Wai Yim brings a sweetly pure and childlike quality to Cheese, making him incredibly endearing, and making his fate all the more gut wrenching.

Other key players like Paul R. Coate as the Chaplain and Ken Porter as Courage's belligerent and misguided "favorite" son, do equally well.

The show is well paced and the scene changes are smooth. There is a projection screen used for the background that could have been utilized more effectively, but the rotating stage is done well. The costuming is good, and the music is well suited to the show.

Mother Courage and Her Children ran Nov. 17 through 19, and continues after the holiday break on Nov. 30 through Dec. 3 in the Weber Fine Arts Building.

A Short History of Nearly Everything lives up to title

JOSH BASHARA
FEATURES EDITOR

Did you know that within our universe exists matter that is so dense that a mere spoonful of it would weigh 200 billion pounds? No? Don't feel too bad...neither did I until I sat down and devoted a good many hours—albeit it productive ones—to trekking though author Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, currently a best-selling paperback.

Just for curiosity's sake, the above-mentioned matter exists in the core of a neutron star, the precursor to the more widely-known event called a supernova. Thanks to Bryson, I can now add this little nugget of information to my collective knowledge, although at times I did find myself wondering just how useful some of this information would be in the "real world."

Content with learning just for the enjoyment of it—if there is such a thing—I buried my nose deep in pages detailing the abridged history of the universe, the solar system, the earth and all its great scientific minds of the last millennium. Resurfacing a week later, my brain frazzled and gasping for precious, mundane air, I found myself satisfyingly fulfilled that I had really learned a thing or two about why things are the way they are.

It wasn't until halfway through the book, though, that I realized Bryson's unique writing talent: he's able to turn the utterly mundane into something fun and enjoyable.

A Short History of Nearly Everything is

actually quite a departure from Bryson's past work, which includes a number of travel memoirs, and even a grammar book called *Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words*.

Born in 1951 in Des Moines, Iowa, Bryson began his travels with a backpacking trip through Europe, where he met his wife and decided to stay. He initially made his living writing travel pieces for newspapers like *The Times* and *The Independent*, until he finally broke in to the world of publishing in the 1990s with Random House.

Having never read his earlier work, I can only speculate that Bryson displayed a similar knack for taking usual, run-of-the-mill experiences and turning them into fantastic reading. I would bet that in *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, his latest book, this talent is showcased more than ever. After all, how many authors can truly take a subject like quantum mechanics and present it to the layman in an effective way, perhaps even inspiring a chuckle now and again?

Essentially, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is what its title implies: a brief and easy-to-digest history of a few of the most fundamental aspects of the universe, our planet and life as we know it. Make no mistake—this isn't science fiction. It's a through-and-through non-fiction book, aimed at enlightening the inquisitive minds who might have a passing interest in natural science.

The book begins at an appropriate enough place for such a book to begin: the big bang—the creation of our universe. In the first chapter, lightheartedly titled "How To

See A SHORT HISTORY: Page 6

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From **A SHORT HISTORY**: Page 5

Build a Universe," Bryson begins by stressing to the reader just how small a proton is. Even though he makes the attempt, he admits that you'll never really be able to comprehend it.

"It is just way too small," he writes. "A proton is an infinitesimal part of an atom, which is itself of course an insubstantial thing. Protons are so small that a little dab of ink like the dot on this *i* can hold something in the region of 500,000,000,000 of them, rather more than the number of seconds contained in half a million years. So protons are exceedingly microscopic, to say the least."

He begins with this point in order to explain the size of the universe only scant moments before the big bang. And, as he goes on, you'd have to imagine something a billionth of the size of a proton. In a very effective way, Bryson is describing the indescribable, at least to layman's ears.

He continues throughout this initial chapter to give the reader a front-row seat in imagining the big bang and the creation of the universe, as backed up and quoted by many of the great scientists of throughout the years. The book is structured somewhat chronologically as it pertains to the development of the universe, then earth and finally to man.

Subsequent chapters, for example, describe the physical formation of the earth, explanations of how elements came into being and what they are and the grossly summarized history of paleontology. Bryson leads the reader on many diversions, often devoting entire chapters to the profiling of great scientists like Albert Einstein and Carl Sagan. And it's at times like these that the inevitable comes into focus: occasional boredom sets in.

Although no history book—even the shortest of ones—would be complete without the detailing of the men and women who discovered the secrets to life's great mysteries, things do get somewhat dry for the passive reader. Oftentimes page after page is found to

detail the research and life's work of scientists; subjects the author could have skimmed on a bit for brevity's sake.

But to Bryson—not only an author, but a man of science—that might be like telling an auto mechanic to teach you how to change the oil in a car without even lifting the hood.

Luckily for the reader, Bryson pulls out at just the right times and changes pace back to something a little more interesting, like painting a picture of what the first humans who walked the earth might have looked like. In addition to visceral imagery through his writing, Bryson has a distinct geek-chic style that you might expect from a "Dungeons & Dragons"-playing, sci-fi/fantasy fanatic who spends many leisure hours studying astronomy and the like as a hobby. In fact, I'd be willing to bet that Bryson's young-adult years were consumed with this sort of stuff.

Bryson doesn't give the reader many details of his later years as a science hobbyist, but in the beginning of the book, he does clue us in as to what originally motivated him to write the book, and it goes all the way back to when he was in grade school.

Bryson tells a brief story about perusing though one of his science books as a young child, fascinated with cut-away diagrams of the earth's interior and the like. But it frustrated him that nowhere in these childhood school books did it ever explain how scientists came to learn the secrets of the earth and space. The concepts were always given, but without explanation as to *how* scientists originally unlocked these mysteries.

This inspired Bryson to find out how researchers knew the things they knew, and the product of his life-long studies is this book. He doesn't just tell the reader, for example, that millions of years ago our atmosphere contained substantially more oxygen than it does today. He explains *how* we could possibly know such a thing. And in this regard, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is a shining star.



Mick's Music Bar

Sarah Benck and the Robbers play a show at Mick's Music Bar.

Local band Sarah Benck and the Robbers steals attention of Omaha music fans

JOHN THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

When Sarah Benck, of Sarah Benck and the Robbers, steps on stage, you would probably first think, "Oh great, here's another small bodied girl with an oversized acoustic guitar, who's going to whine us to sleep with complaints about her latest break-up."

All right, maybe that's just what I first thought.

Either way, once the first verse soars from the 21-year-old Omaha native's lungs, everyone in the audience (including yours truly) finds themselves asking, "Where did that come from?"

Fueled by the intensity and passion of her band, the 5-foot 5-inch Benck unleashes emotional and soulful lyrics that catch people by surprise.

"I was just sitting there enjoying my drink and conversation when I lost my train of thought because I couldn't stop listening to this girl on stage," said Jon Hruska, a new Sarah Benck fan after catching the show at Mick's Music Bar in Omaha.

The Robbers, which includes Nick Holum on drums, James Carrig on bass, and Jason Ferguson on guitar, came together in 2004, and began playing live shows shortly after. Soon, the quartet began to notice they

had an Omaha following.

So it was no surprise to anyone who's heard their music that they were picked by radio station Q 98.5 to compete for the opening spot of the Bon Jovi concert at Omaha's Qwest Center. Benck and the Robbers competed against four other Omaha bands and won the contest by having the loudest audience applause and most votes by a panel of judges.

"We were up against some fantastic bands, and though we planned on giving it our all, as we always do, we did not necessarily expect to win," said Benck.

But win they did, and at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 12, Sarah Benck and her Robbers played a half hour set in front of a sold out Qwest Center. Since then, the band has noticed an increase in CD sales, as well as emails and encouraging comments on their Web site, www.sarahbenck.com.

Their debut CD, *Suicide Doublewide*, is for sale at Homers and on their Web site. Although the CD is a great showcase of their talents, nothing is like seeing this band live. Every Wednesday at 9 p.m., Sarah Benck and Corey Anderson take turns playing solo sets at Mick's Music Bar, located at 5918 Maple Street. You can catch the full band on Dec. 4 at Shag, at 707 N. 114th St., Miracle Hills Square or on Dec. 9 at the Sokol Auditorium.

The Mercurys rock this town, collect toys for the children of Pine Ridge

ANGI SADA
NEWS EDITOR

The roof shook and the windows rattled inside of Trovato's on the night before Thanksgiving. Omaha's own rockabilly royalty, The Mercurys, dominated the diminutive stage as they ripped through three sets in an otherwise quiet bar.

Guitarist Lash LaRue, in his trademark sleeveless button-up shirt and omnipresent white cowboy hat, stood with closed eyes and a cigarette in his mouth as he made what had to have been the gentlest love to his guitar. More impressively, he sang with that lit cigarette dangling out of the left side of his mouth and let the ashes fall where they wanted.

The Mercurys impressed the tiny crowd with their quiet demeanor until "The Turducken" jokes started. Those can be forgiven because T. Dickey is so fast on that upright bass that it would be safe to assume he was just a little whiplashed from it all.

Rounding out the local trio was uber-cool drummer Ringo Maguire. Maguire appeared to never break a sweat and

maintained constant UV protection for his eyes even though it was night. He must be a member of the Corey Hart "I Wear my Sunglasses at Night" club.

As the sets rose up and wound down, LaRue's consistently tight playing was strong and smart. I'm not just saying this because he is hot for an old guy. But, he is really hot for an old guy.

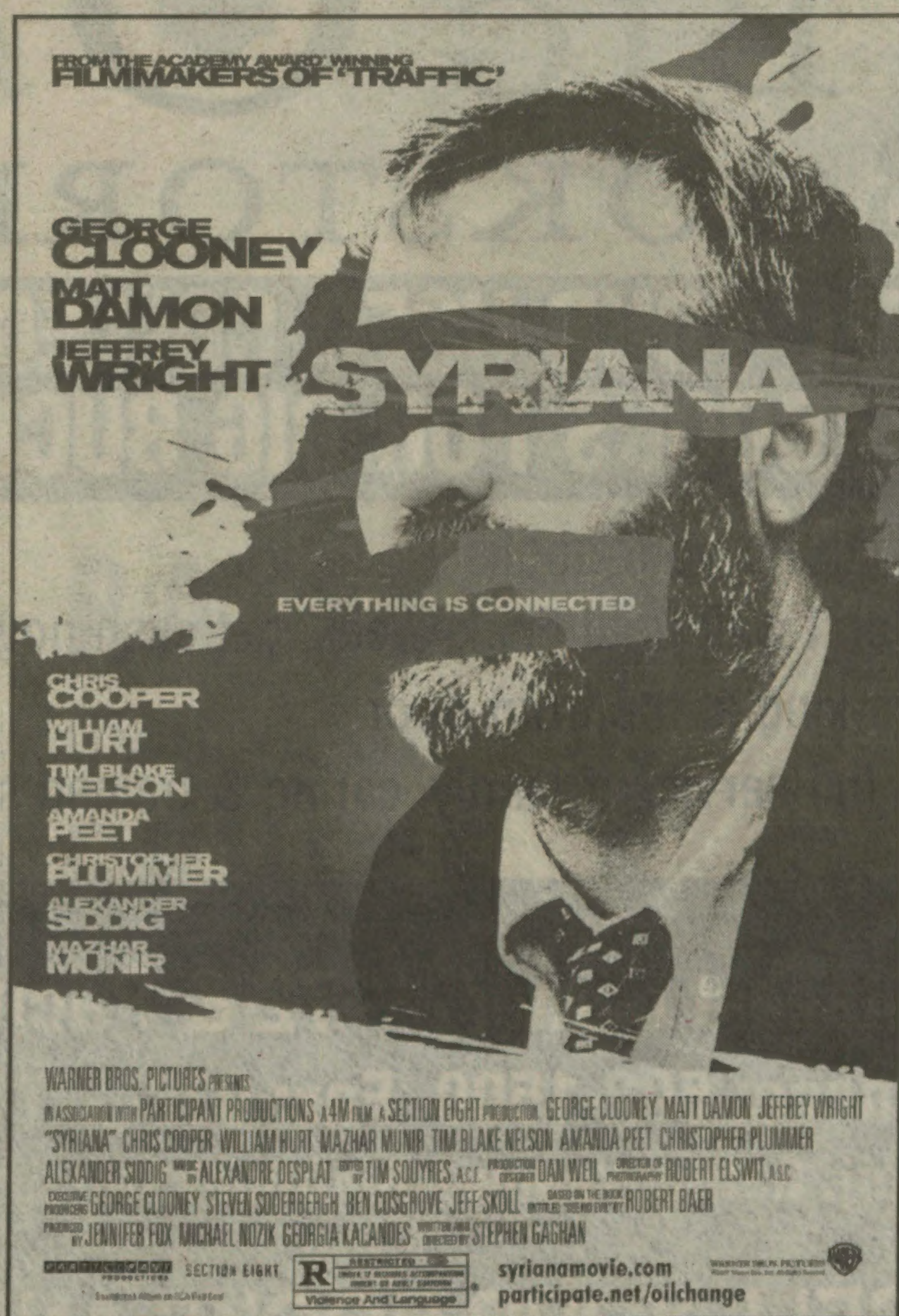
On top of that, LaRue is a decent human being. He has planned a pair of shows to collect toys for the children of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which includes parts of Nebraska and South Dakota. This is his second year doing the benefit. According to answers.com, Pine Ridge is one of the poorest communities in the nation with more than 60 percent of the community living at or below the poverty line.

LaRue's shows will include several local acts including The Mercurys and their foot-stomping brand of Omaha rockabilly. The shows will be at Mick's Music Bar on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. and at Shag on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. Admission to each show is \$7 or one new unwrapped toy.



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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 9TH!

Mavericks' rally falls short against Saginaw

CHRIS HARRINGTON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO football team put everything on the line in the second round playoff game against Saginaw Valley State at Al F. Caniglia Field on Nov. 19.

Having the week off to prepare seemed to give the No. 14 Mavericks the edge, but the winter weather took its toll and UNO was forced to hold two practices inside the Sapp Fieldhouse.

The weather took some of the intensity out of the Maverick's offense. They were held to one touchdown the entire game as SVSU's defense forced two second-half turnovers to pull out a 24-21 win. No. 4 SVSU came into the game with a dominant defense, allowing only 13.3 points per game. SVSU contained Brian Masek the entire game, forcing him to throw two interceptions and held the

Mavericks to just 109 yards through the air. The Cardinals also controlled the time of possession.

The Mavericks' defense and special teams kept UNO in the game for the most part. After the Mavs' first drive, Don Grafton was forced to punt, but luckily for them Mino Solomon of SVSU muffed the punt and UNO was able to recover it. The Mavericks took control of the ball inside the red zone, and capped the drive off by a Shawn Ostlund 1-yard touchdown run to put UNO up by seven.

After Bobby Belmonte's 29-yard field goal to pull the Cardinals within

four, the Mavericks' defense stepped up and made a huge play. SVSU quarterback Chris Dougherty was picked off by UNO junior linebacker Kenny Onatolu who returned it all the way for a touchdown to put the Mavericks up 14-3 to end the first quarter. In the second quarter, SVSU scored 14 unanswered points by picking on UNO's secondary with a 67-yard touchdown pass from Dougherty to Rick Cottengim and a Logan Barnhart 6-yard touchdown run. Special teams came up huge again for the Mavericks with a blocked punt that Randy Kush recovered in the end zone to give UNO its last touchdown of the game right before the end of the first half.

The second half was all SVSU. Barnhart rushed for his second touchdown of the game to give SVSU its first lead of the game 24-21. With 12 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, UNO had another chance at putting points on the board. But quarterback Brian Masek was picked off for the second time.

Jamar Day finished the game with



photo by Michelle Bishop

Kyle Kasperbauer dodges a tackle from Saginaw Valley State's Derek Volmering.

99 rushing yards and Chris Denney had a team-high three catches for 57 yards. Senior linebacker Taiwou Onatolu led UNO defenders in tackles with 10 total

and his twin brother Kenny added nine. With the win, SVSU snapped UNO's 10-home game win streak and ended the Mavericks' season with an 8-3 record.



photo by Michelle Bishop

Fans came out to support the Mavericks despite cold and rainy weather during the playoff game.

Volleyball's season ends in regional semifinal in Minnesota

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

Minnesota-Duluth ended the season for the UNO volleyball team in the NCAA II North Central Regional Semifinal in St. Paul, Minn. on Nov. 18. The Mavericks ended the season with a 20-8 overall record.

Sophomore All-American Vicky Braegelmann's 15 kills and senior libero Allison Boddy's 21 digs led the Bulldogs in the 31-29, 30-22, 30-20 sweep of the No. 23 Mavericks.

UNO outblocked UMD 12 to 8 and none of the Mavericks reached double-digit

kills. Christina Reicks led the Mavs with nine kills and 10 digs. The Bulldogs defense held the Mavs to a .084 hitting percentage while UMD hit .167. UMD also held a 46-36 advantage in digs and a 49-32 advantage in kills.

In the Nov. 17 first round game, UNO swept in-state rival Wayne State 32-30, 30-23, 31-29. Carlie Christensen smashed down a match-high 16 kills and hit .467 to lead the Mavericks in the win. Ashley Freeman added 15 kills and hit .371 with four blocks. Brianna Ritter led the defense with seven block assists and UNO outblocked WSU 10-6 and held WSU to just .136 hitting percentage while UNO's offense hit .299.

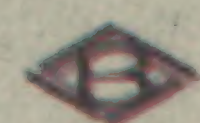


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photo by J P Adair

Calvin Kapels puts up a shot during the Mavericks' game against Colorado State-Pueblo on Friday.

Mavericks manhandle opponents, win three straight home games

CHRIS HARRINGTON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO basketball team started off the season with a bad week on the road, but came up with a huge win as soon as the team was able to play at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

The Mavericks started the season off by playing in two different classics at two neutral sites. The Disney Tip-Off Classic in Orlando, Fla., and the Colorado Mines Classic in Golden, Co., brought out the worst for the Mavericks. On the road the Mavericks lost four of their first five games, leaving them with a 1-4 record on the season. Returning home seemed to spark the team in a huge way.

Opening up last week against Missouri Valley for the first home game of the season gave the Mavericks a 94-59 win, which was UNO's largest margin of victory this season. Three days later, UNO manhandled Colorado State-Pueblo 73-47 and ran through Oklahoma Panhandle State 68-48 the following day in the Downtown Courtyard by Marriott Classic.

During the last three games, the Mavericks have outscored their opponents 235-154. Against Missouri Valley, five different UNO players scored in double-digits, led by Zac Robinson who had 16, Quantel Murphy with 10

and Calvin Kapels, Jamaal Byers and Gabe Zwiener all with 13. As a team UNO shot 75 percent from the line, showing significant improvements from last season.

Kapels had another big game against Colorado State-Pueblo. The 6-foot-4-inch, 185-pound senior guard scored a team-high 22 points, went six of eight from the line and was eight of 13 on field goals. He also had seven total rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Two other UNO players scored in double-digits, including Byers with 13 and Robinson with 10. The Mavericks led by as many as 26 points late in the second half against Missouri Valley.

In Saturday's home game against Oklahoma Panhandle State, the Mavericks went on an 18-0 run in the first half. Kapels had a double with 21 points and snagged 10 rebounds. He also had six assists. Three other UNO players scored in double-digits: Robinson with 10, and Murphy and Michael Jenkins both scored 11.

UNO shot an impressive 82 percent from the free throw line.

With the win, UNO improved to 4-4 on the season and dropped the Aggies to 0-5 on the season. The Mavericks will now jump back on the road and travel to St. Joseph, Mo., to take on Missouri Western on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7

Women beat in-state rival

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO women's basketball team is on a four-game streak after dropping in-state rival Nebraska-Kearney 72-60 on Nov. 17, Upper Iowa 85-50 on Nov. 22, Iowa Wesleyan 97-62 on Nov. 25 and Grand View 74-56 on Nov. 26.

Against UNK, the Mavs shot 50 percent in the first half to put together a 30-6 run for a 39-30 halftime lead. UNO opened up the second half to pull away to a 48-34 lead in the first five minutes. The Lopers came back scoring seven straight points on field goals from Jonni Mildenerger and a three-pointer from Amy Bowen to close the game to 48-41 with 12 minutes and 54 seconds left to play. UNO put together a 15-3 run with five contributing players to take a firm command of the game.

UNO shot 47.5 percent from the floor while holding UNK to 32.3 percent on the contest.

Four Mavericks scored in double-digits against Upper Iowa, led by Ashley Freerksen with 22.

"I thought we played a great team game," said UNO coach Patty Patton Shearer. "We did a nice job defensively and everyone contributed."

The Mavericks carried a 43-33 lead into the break after shooting 55.6 percent in the first half. In the second half UNO's defense held Upper Iowa to just 17.9 percent shooting and 17 points.

Against Iowa Wesleyan, six Mavs scored in double-digits and the team shot 55.7 percent to run over the Tigers 97-62 in the first round of the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Classic at the Sapp Fieldhouse. Karen Thies scored 18 points, with nine boards and eight assists in the game.



photo by J P Adair

JJ Smith attempts a shot during the Mavericks' game against Iowa Wesleyan on Friday.

The Mavs went on a 20-8 run to start the game, but Iowa Wesleyan fought back to bring the score to 22-17 midway through the first half. UNO answered by going on a 9-0 run. IWU put together an eight-point

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From **HOCKEY**: Page 1

second goal of the night at the 15:56 mark in the second to close out scoring for the game. The Mavs held the Nanooks off in the third to hold onto the 4-2 win.

Game two against Alaska-Fairbanks was a frustrating one for UNO. Once again UAF took the early lead when Kyle Greentree scored on a breakaway with 1:26 left in the first period. The 1-0 lead held into the intermission. The Nanooks blew the game open scoring three more goals in the second for a 4-0 lead.

Thomas started the Mavericks on a rally with a goal 15:21 into the second period to put UNO on the board. He cut the lead in half with another goal at the 8:09 mark in the third period. Parse brought the Mavs within one with 6:54 second left to play. After Parse's goal the Mavericks played like men possessed, firing off shot after shot in an attempt to take the game into overtime. A UNO shot bounced off the post with three seconds left in the game to give UAF the 4-3 win despite being out shot by 21 goals.

The frustrations continued for the Mavericks against Minnesota State. The Mavericks once again outshot their opponent but could not get the puck into the net. Tomas Klempa gave the Mavs a 1-0 lead when he scored 17:34 into the first period. The purple Mavericks answered by scoring six goals in the final two periods. MSU converted on three power plays in the second with goals from Brent Cumings, David Backes, and Brock Becker to take a 3-1 lead into the second intermission. Travis Morin scored early in the third for the game winner before

the two teams traded back and forth goals the rest of the game. UNO couldn't fight out of the hole and lost the battle 6-3 despite out shooting MSU 39-22.

Things started looking up for the Mavericks in the first round of the holiday tournament against Providence on Nov. 25. UNO scored two goals in each of the first two periods before holding off a Providence rally in the third for a 4-2 win. Alex Nikiforuk and Bryan Marshall scored within two minutes of each other in the first period to give the Mavs a 2-0 lead. Dan Charleston extended the Mav lead to 3-0 early in the second and Adam Bartholomay scored his first career goal as a Maverick 16:58 into the period. Providence made it a two-goal game with two goals in the third, but UNO held on for the win.

UNO showcased its offensive potential in the championship game against Holy Cross. Dan Knapp's power play goal gave the Mavs a 1-0 lead after the first period. Freshmen Charleston and J.P. Platisha gave the Mavericks two more goals by the end of the second for a 3-0 second intermission lead. Nikiforuk increased UNO's lead to 4-1 with his second goal of the weekend on a backhand from Brandon Scero in the third. Bartholomay and Thomas each scored in the final minute of the game to give UNO the 6-1 championship win. Parse extended his point streak to a school record 13 consecutive games with his assist on Thomas's goal.

The Mavericks will return to the Qwest Center and CCHA action when they host Ferris State Dec. 2 and 3.



photo by J P Adair

Cody Garcia tries to break down an opponent from Boise State during the Kauffman-Brand Open.

Mavericks earn two titles at Kaufmann-Brand Open

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

Les Sigman and freshman Jacob Marrs each earned titles Nov. 19 when UNO hosted the nation's largest single-day wrestling tournament. About 700 wrestlers from 41 Division I and II schools competed in the Kaufmann-Brand Open. Sigman and Marrs each defeated Division I wrestlers in their championship matches. Sigman defeated the

University of Iowa's Matt Field, ranked No. 7 in National Wrestling Coaches Association preseason poll, to take home the title.

Marrs downed Nebraska-Lincoln's Levi Wofford 8-4 to take home the Under 20 197-pound division. UNO freshman Cody Garcia finished fourth in the 125-pound Under 20 division and Kyle Ruschell finished second in the open division. UNO will travel to the Northern Iowa Open on Dec. 3.

Swimmers leave five in their wakes

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO Swimming and Diving team extended their winning streak to five consecutive meets after beating Nebraska-Kearney on Nov. 18 and Minnesota State-Moorhead on Nov. 19.

UNO won 13 of 16 events against the Aqualopers, with 10 different Mavericks claiming victories. Lisa Wemhoff and Jessica Hessel each brought home two victories apiece. Wemhoff won the 500-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle. Hessel won the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard backstroke. She also helped the Mavs take first in the 200-yard Medley Relay.

The home opener against MSM was very similar to the previous night with UNO picking up 13 of 16 wins again. UNO won the 400-yard Medley and the 400-yard Freestyle to sweep the relay events. Jamie Grogan finished first in the one-meter diving and Sheena Kafka finished first in the three-meter diving event.

Hessel picked up another two titles in the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly this time. Katey Howarter picked up two titles in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle.

UNO is now 5-2 in dual meets and will host the Mutual of Omaha Invite at the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Pool Dec. 2 and 3 in all day events.

Mavericks soccer earns fourth consecutive Final Four appearance

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO soccer team became only the fourth team in NCAA Division II history to reach the final four for four or more consecutive years on Nov. 20. Amanda Iwansky put her tournament leading fifth and sixth goals into the net

against Grand Valley State to lead the Mavericks to a 2-0 win semifinal victory. The Mavericks defense shut down the nation's No. 6 scoring offense to just seven shots total and only two shots on goal. The Mavericks will travel to Wichita Falls, Texas on Thursday Dec. 1 to take on Franklin Pierce for a shot at the national title.

From **BASKETBALL**: Page 8

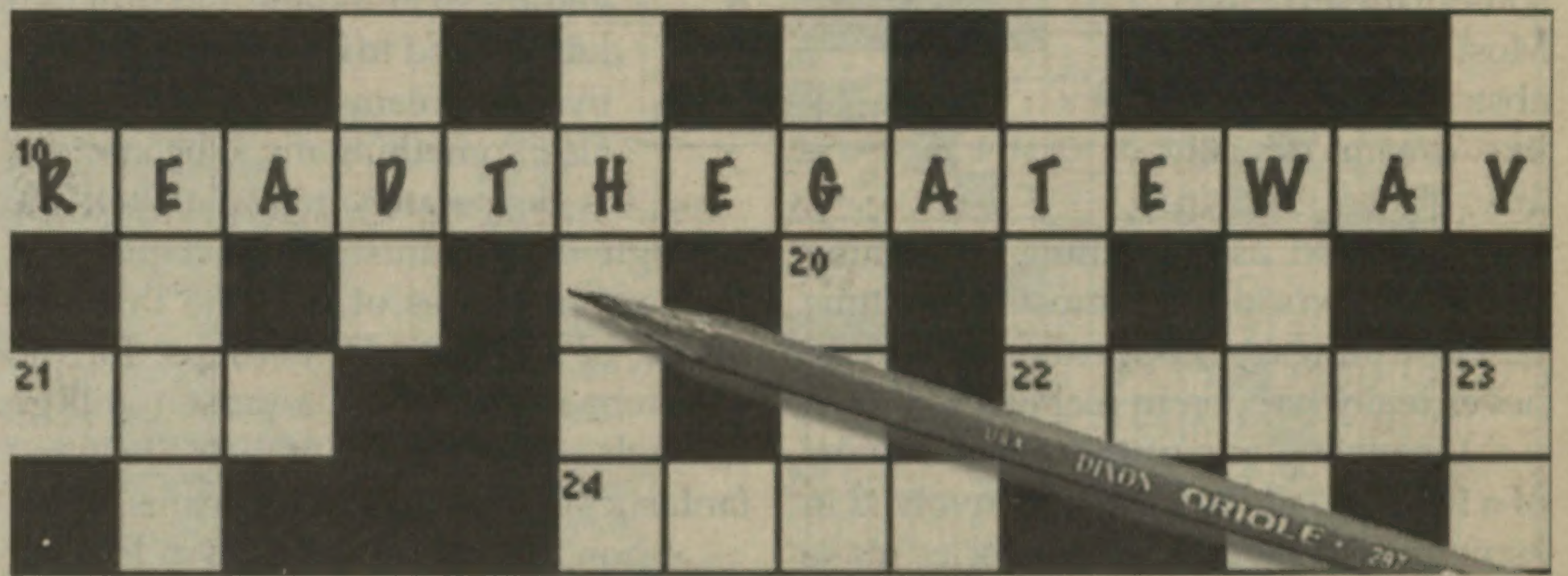
run to bring the score to 40-32 at the half.

An 11-0 run midway through the second half gave the Mavericks a 20-point lead and IWU could not recover. The Mavericks out shot the tigers 61.1 percent to 37.5 percent.

Saturday night UNO picked up the classic championship after downing Grand View 74-56. Karen Thies led the Mavs with 14 points and six rebounds followed by J.J. Smith with 13 points and six rebounds and Cayla Hargrove and Freerksen with 12 points apiece.

The Mavericks held Grand View without a field goal for 7:40 while taking a 46-25 lead in the first half. After the break UNO only shot 25 percent from the field and allowed Grand View to pull within 14 over an eight minute span in the second. UNO finished the game shooting just 36.8 percent from the field while allowing Grand View to shoot 43.5 percent.

The Mavericks will be in action again Friday when they host Mesa State in the first round of the DoubleTree Classic at 7 p.m.



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Getting lost in lives that don't belong to me

Throughout the last few months, I've been dreaming pretty intensely. At first I thought it was a new drug that I was taking, because I've heard that one of the side-effects is having very lucid dreams. But then I stopped taking it, and the dreams continued.

Crazy dreams. Sad dreams. Wild dreams. All sorts of dreams, all pretty damn intense and all the kind that leave that post-dream feeling with you throughout the day, after you wake up.

One concurrent theme about these dreams is that they're so structured. It's almost like I'm living through something out of a movie in some of these dreams. Most of them aren't abstract and esoteric like dreams usually are, either. They're seem as solid as something happening in the real world, only most of the time fantastic things are happening that would never really happen in real life.

Like being one of the sole survivors of a nuclear fallout. Or being involved in some plot to help an alien species make contact with the earth. Or helping a gang of fugitives run from the police, and falling in love with one of the lost souls of the group.

You see? Movie-type stuff. I've always been big fan of movies, but my dreams never used to be like this, especially the frequency of which they are occurring now.

I experience other things in these dreams as well. Like full lifetimes of falling in love and starting a family. Or living through the entirety of some drawn-out experience like breaking up

with someone I'm in love with.

But one thing remains the same, despite the themes. The lucidity. The realness of it all. The emotion I'm feeling while I'm asleep—the other lives I'm living.

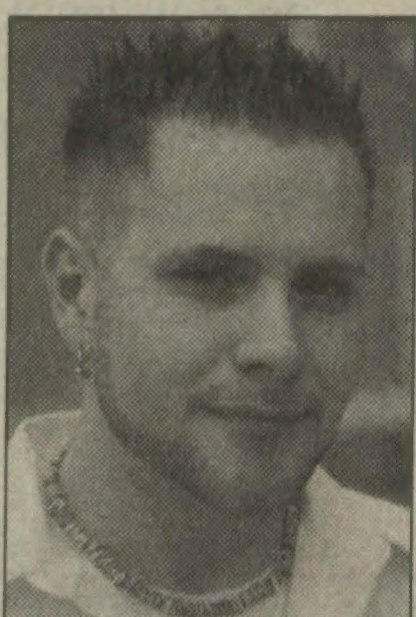
I've been sleeping in a lot lately. I'll wake up when my alarm clock goes off and angrily beat the sh*t out of the snooze button for ripping me away from my dream. I'll close my eyes and go back to sleep, most of the time able to escape back into the dream—the movie in my head, with me starring as the main character.

It scares me a little when I really thing about what's been happening to be during the last few months. Why am I having these dreams so much? Is my life getting so mundane and dull that I feel I need to escape real life and live in dreams? Is it something else; something my subconscious is desperately trying to tell me through my dreams? Or is it just one of those mysteries of life, one that will never be answered? Perhaps for no apparent reason at all, a person will go through a short period of their life living fantastically through their dreams.

I don't have the answer I'm looking for, and I'm not really sure that I'll ever find it. Maybe in a few months, the intensity of my dreams will subside and I'll go back to the occasional once-a-month head-spinner. Or maybe they're here to stay.

Either way, all I can do for now is take them for what they're worth; a nightly escape into worlds I don't live in—lives that aren't mine. But then again, maybe that's the true nature of dreams: they really are a reflection of who we are and what we're going through in life.

Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

Students are citizens, too

In 1969, the United States Supreme Court decided that the rights of high school students did not come to a halt at the schoolhouse gates in the landmark case of *Tinker v. Des Moines*. This case has become so much of what the student press was built upon and symbolizes. This case is one of the few things that I remember from a very hazy high school era.

The case is about to be tested because of the actions of Oak Ridge High School administrators. Like cheap suit wearing storm troopers, administrators went into classrooms and offices and confiscated all 1,800 printed copies of the school paper, the Oak Leaf. The superintendent of schools in Oak Ridge, Tenn. ordered copies of the Oak Leaf pulled from the stands and prohibited the distribution of the paper unless it is edited to remove content that might not be "acceptable to the entire school."

In 1988 an entirely different Supreme Court narrowed the scope of protection offered to student press with the *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, but did not entirely negate the premise that students should have access to a free press of their own. In the findings of the *Hazelwood* case one would only need to pick at the wording of the items held by the court. The idea that the rights of the students are not interchangeable with those of adults could be very easily challenged if so much as one member of the Oak Leaf's staff is 18 years old. The court also said that the manner in which the school limited the content of the paper be done reasonably. By withholding the papers after publication and after the

Bitter with Age



Angi Sada

sale of ad space, the Oak Leaf has violated every advertising contract it had, placing an unreasonable constraint on its ability to carry on financially.

The "unacceptable" content was a story and photo about a student with a tattoo about which she had not yet told her parents, and a story about birth control.

Superintendent Tom Bailey said that he would

not allow the schools to be a part of a situation that is keeping information from parents. He felt that the content of the paper was inappropriate for younger high school students.

Unfortunately, Bailey fails to see the real issue at hand. His actions violated the rights of the students he was hired to serve, the children that he is obligated to help. He has opened a legal can of venomous snakes. The students have an incredibly strong pair of legs on which to stand if the courts respect precedence. However, if the court is to be swayed by the brilliance of the current administration, those kids are screwed.

To take this case to the Supreme Court will be a precarious step given the painfully constipated and conservative climate within the court. It is particularly frightening given the simple fact that the fastest way to root out opposition to government is by attacking the scholars and by holding down the youth. A strong, intelligent youth is a dangerous youth.

Ultimately, the argument at hand is whether, as a student, one is half a person

See *BITTER WITH AGE*: Page 11

Thanksgiving: Not what it used to be

A year or two ago, I wrote an unpublished article named "Thanksgiving, What Thanksgiving?" in which I commented on how the holiday is becoming nothing more than turkey, football, and a parade.

It started off well, with me being thankful for many things, from thanking my competition, to thanking the president and John Kerry (Hey, he could've drawn on the 2004 election like 2000 was drawn out, but he decided to end it the day after. It took a lot of guts to do what he did).

I was thankful for my readers, because without them, I'm nothing. And I was thankful for soldiers and veterans, past and present, who have the immeasurable courage to face threats to this country and win.

But afterward, I started complaining that the most important part of the Macy's parade held every year is that Santa Claus has arrived, or that Christmas commercials were airing before Thanksgiving had even started. I then realized that people can't make as much money from Thanksgiving that they could with Christmas or Halloween.

But there have been a few things that happened this year that would make a nice addendum to the previous article.

Most importantly, I've noticed

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle


that there is one other thing that happens on Thanksgiving Day: people formulate their plans of attack for the early morning "Day After Thanksgiving" sales. Thanksgiving night, I picked up a World Herald, and usually, the Thursday edition is about three-quarters of an inch thick. The edition I bought was at least double that thick, and I'll give a free guess as to why. I ended up throwing

away all of the adverts, because I wasn't about to go through another one of those sales again.

You know, it may seem cruel, but my family and I have a pool every year as to who can predict the number of tramlings that happen at Nebraska Furniture Mart's post-Thanksgiving sale. It's true, there's at least one every year. Unfortunately,

See *AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED*: Page 11





Gateway

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Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

From **BITTER WITH AGE:** Page 10

deserving half the rights. This debate may be starting on the high school stage, but there is very little to stop legitimate attempts to attack college campuses, including but not limited to its student publications.

Moreover, these are the issues that are important to the Oak Leaf's audience. This is not the world of Bailey's childhood. It's not even the same world of my childhood. This is a new era with new concerns for teens. I may not be John Dewey and I may not have a whole lot of authority on issues

surrounding the education of teens, but I'm going to go out on a limb here. It is probably not the best thing to hide these issues from them. They will find the answers on their own. Worse than that, they may try to move forward without the knowledge at all. That is a formula for disaster.

The students of this country deserve to speak and be heard. They deserve to have an open dialogue about the issues that matter to them. They deserve to be treated like citizens of this country.

From **AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED:** Page 10

I never seem to win (I always end up bidding too high).

But it's true! No matter where the sale is, as soon as the doors open, it's "The Running of the Bulls" all over again. People pushing, shoving, even running over other people just to get that one thing that's 99 percent off.

That's why I don't go to them anymore. I was almost killed once, I'm not going to do it again.

Another griping point goes back to the Macy's parade. No, it's not Santa this time, it's something much more annoying. What had happened was that almost every float or marching band stopped the line just to perform some fancy synchronized band formation maneuvers, or there's some singer on the float that has to get that one song in. Why are they performing in a parade? A parade is supposed to be forward moving. You stop, and you'll most likely be run over.

I understand that these marching bands worked hard on these maneuvers, but why do we have to stop the parade every few minutes just for someone to play before the cameras? If you want to sing a song, do it on a stage. If you want to do those fancy maneuvers, do it on a football field.

On a field or a stage you won't have people trying to run you over from behind, or at the very least, floats crashing down on you.

Thanksgiving was supposed to be

a time where we remember all of the things we should be thankful for, but over the past few years, it has become nothing more than a hurdle before Christmas with turkey, football, a parade/floor show, and enough post-Thanksgiving advertisements to winterize a medium-sized house.

And according to an article by Tom Purcell, we do have a lot to be thankful for: a growing economy, with the stock market looking to break 11,000 by year's end, a safe America that hasn't been attacked since 9/11 (even if the Iraq war is supposedly creating more terrorists), and a democratic society, where all sides of an issue are welcomed, and none are persecuted.

And we should all be thankful for being in one of the greatest countries in the world, where we all, "with a little hard work and sacrifice, can become whatever we wish to be."

WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the *Gateway*. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The *Gateway* reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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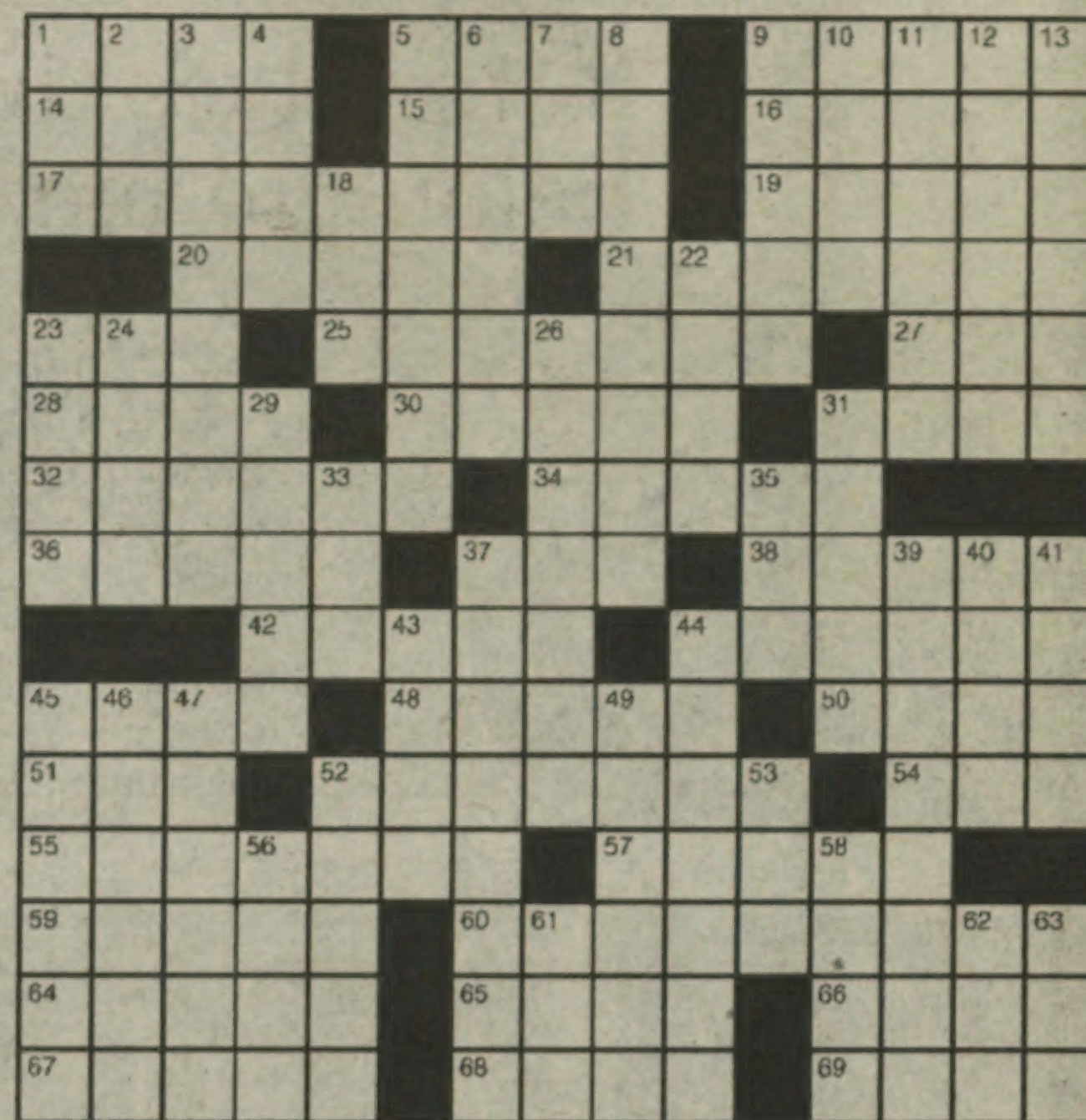
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- 1 Bleacher cheers
5 Gin flavoring
9 "The Plague" writer
14 Soap additive
15 Get better
16 Make suitable
17 Sink in
19 ___ of Aragon
20 Wood pattern
21 Draw near
23 Flood haven
25 Still on the plate
27 Function
28 Long or hot finisher?
30 Banks of baseball
31 High-tailed it
32 Virgil's hero
34 Pentateuch
36 Beeped
37 Chaney of "The Wolf Man"
38 Jewel weight
42 Hurler Ryan
44 Sister of Venus
45 Gnus to lions
48 Architect Jones
50 Problem with a chain
51 Gun it in neutral
52 Masked carnivores
54 Holy smokes!
55 Bric-a-brac shelves
57 Foreigner
59 Neap and ebb
60 Question and answer
64 City on the Adige
65 Shoe points
66 Gillette blade
67 Affirmative responses
68 Mineral veins
69 Salton and Black

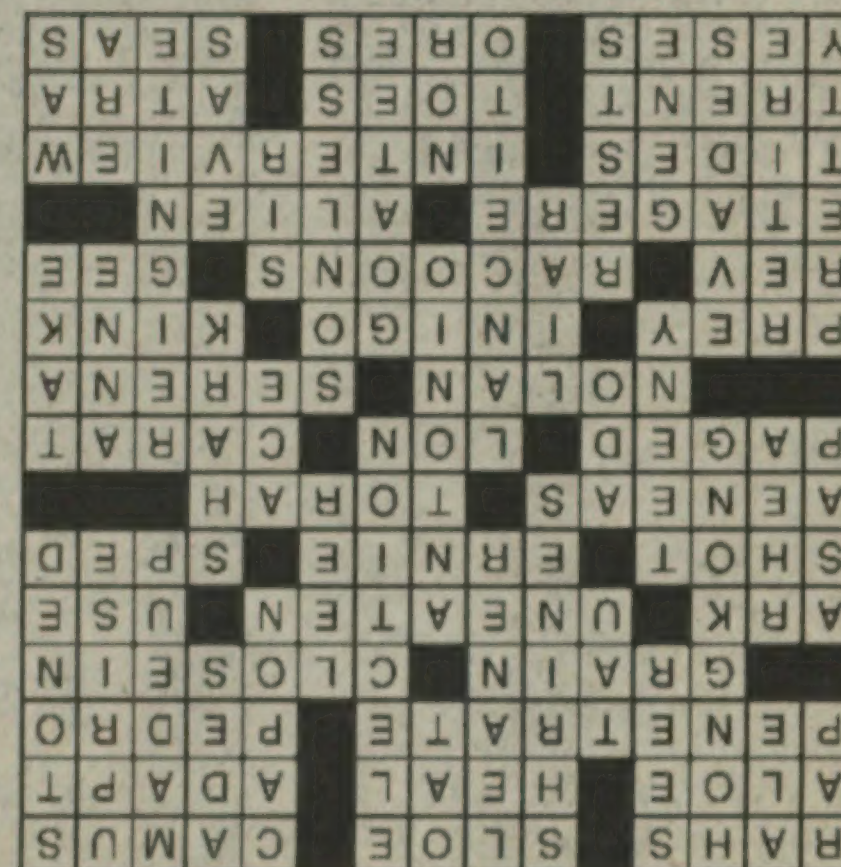
DOWN

- 1 Utter sharply
2 Pub order
3 Chinese port
4 Observer
5 Sacred sites
6 Almost a ringer
7 Trigger treat
8 Voting process
9 Fowl choice
10 Citrus drinks
11 Invented
12 Ascent
13 Pelted with rocks
18 Sigma follower
22 Salacious look
23 Rush-job acronym
24 Perlman of "Cheers"
26 Shylock's customer
29 Minuscule
31 "Jaws" creature
33 Hubbub
35 Top card
37 Simpson's judge
39 Inspire anew
40 Frank or Heche
41 Seize
43 Pinocchio or Ananias
44 Like a family of girls



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11/28/05

Solutions

- 45 Pleasing to the eye
46 Go to bed
47 Gets around
49 Chin whiskers
52 Breathers
53 Title of respect
56 Sarazen or Rayburn
58 Le Gallienne and Gabor
61 And also not
62 Block of time
63 Existed once

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Photo of the Week: Black Friday



Hundreds of people waited in line for hours Friday morning to kick off the holiday shopping season and take advantage of special prices at Nebraska Furniture Mart.

photo by
Michelle Bishop

From **AIDS DAY**: Page 1

The need for such testing in Omaha is becoming increasingly important.

"Douglas County is the leading county in the nation for transmission of STD's. The rate of HIV and AIDS transmission follows the rates of STD transmission," said Rosie Higgs, director of education and testing for Nebraska AIDS Project.

Higgs said that the Nebraska AIDS Project and student health services are longtime collaborators.

"We have been partnering with UNO student health services for about six years and both of us do HIV testing on campus."

In addition to being a day of education and awareness, World AIDS day is meant to be a day of

support for individuals infected with the disease.

Going on its 18th year, World AIDS Day was started in London in 1988. This year's theme in the United States is "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise."

According to worldaidsday.org, AIDS takes more than 8,000 lives globally every day. Today, more than 40.3 million people all over the globe are infected with either HIV or AIDS.

For more information go to nap.org or contact Student Health Services at 554-2727.

Angi Sada contributed to this article.

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We Be Burnin' (Legalize It) - Sean Paul	181006
I'm Sprung - T-Pain	181007
Girl Tonite (feat. Trey Songz) - Twista	181008
Don't Cha - Pussycat Dolls	181009
Play - David Banner	181010
I'm a King (feat. T.I. and Lil' Scrappy) - P\$C	181011
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Presidential - Youngbloodz	181016
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